

a letter to Attorney General Ashcroft asking "how the Justice Department plans to improve its abysmal record of enforcement of all of the major federal firearms statutes." He goes on to say, "by not enforcing existing federal firearm laws, we are not only allowing criminals to arm themselves, we are eliminating any deterrent effect these laws may have."

Justice Department officials regularly point to a 38 percent increase in prosecutions of gun crimes since 2001 as evidence of their success. However, according to the AGS report, at the end of fiscal year 2002, federal prosecutors filed 197 cases for gun trafficking, despite 100,000 guns showing signs of trafficking. Only 27 cases were filed against corrupt gun dealers, even though AGS reports that gun dealers are the leading source of firearms recovered in gun trafficking operations. Across the country, only seven cases for illegally selling a gun to a minor were filed, even though more than 30,000 gun crimes were committed by youths age 17 or under. Only 202 cases were filed for possessing or selling a stolen firearm, despite nearly 140,000 reported gun thefts that year in which the make, model and serial number of a stolen gun was reported to police. And, a mere 98 cases for possessing or selling a firearm with an obliterated serial number were prosecuted, despite thousands of these guns being recovered in cities across the country each year.

I believe vigorous and fair enforcement of our gun safety laws is a critical step toward reducing gun violence. I commend Congressman DINGELL questioning the Justice Department about the enforcement gap, and I hope the Justice Department will step up its efforts to prosecute not only people who commit gun crimes but those corrupt or negligent dealers who put guns in criminal hands.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Palos Heights, IL. On September 11, 2001, a man attacked a Moroccan-American gas station attendant with the blunt end of a 2-foot machete. The attacker was arrested and charged with a hate crime.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can

become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

##### RETIREMENT OF MR. WILLIAM M. COFFEY

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Mr. William M. (Bill) Coffey on his retirement as president and chief executive officer of Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge.

It is my privilege to recognize Bill's dedicated service to the people of our State. During his nearly 40 years as a public servant and a nonprofit leader, Bill has helped countless individuals and families in need.

Born in 1940 on a small farm in north Louisiana, Bill began working for the State Department of Health and Human Services in 1964 after earning a master's in social work from Louisiana State University. His distinguished career as a State employee spanned 25 years and a day, before his retirement in 1987 as deputy director of the Department of Mental Retardation.

He then joined Volunteers of America—one of our Nation's leading human services charities B and in 1989 was appointed president /CEO of the organization's Baton Rouge affiliate. Under his leadership, Volunteers of America expanded its vital mission of service, opening new programs in Lafayette, Lake Charles and many smaller communities across south Louisiana.

Today, Volunteers of America serves more than 14,000 south Louisiana residents every year—abused and neglected children, at-risk youth, the elderly, homeless families, people with mental illness or mental retardation, people living with HIV/AIDS, victims of hurricanes and other disasters, and many more.

Above all, Bill has been a community-builder, bringing together those in need with those who have a need to serve.

My wife Lois and I have experienced the joy of service through Volunteers of America many times, especially on our visits with the children at Parker House in Baton Rouge, a therapeutic setting for young victims of the most severe abuse and neglect. We were honored to be part of a recent \$1.2-million fundraising campaign to acquire a new residence for these children, and a center to prevent child abuse. The outpouring of support for this new facility helped fulfill one of Bill's long-term dreams. It will surely be the crowning touch of his life of service, and his legacy for generations to come.

For all Louisianans, I wish to express our thanks and best wishes to Bill and his family—his wife, Cooky, and their children, Pam and Blake—for many happy years ahead.●

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

##### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

• Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am necessarily absent today to attend funeral services for the former Rhode Island Superior Court's Presiding Justice, Anthony A. Giannini, in Providence.

Were I present today, I would vote "yea" on Executive Calendar No. 218, the nomination of R. Hewitt Pate to be an Assistant Attorney General.●

##### CONGRATULATIONS TO BRYAN JONES

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I commend Mr. Bryan Jones of Yazoo City, MS, for his distinguished service as President of Delta Council.

Delta Council is an area development organization representing the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties of Northwest Mississippi. Delta Council was organized in 1935 to bring together the agricultural, business, and professional leadership of the region to confront the major problems facing the region at that time. Since then, and over the past 68 years, the organization has expanded its role under leaders like Bryan Jones, for the purpose of working in the fields of educational policy, water resource conservation, highway developments, agricultural research, and flood control.

As President of Delta Council, Bryan has served unselfishly and in an effective role to lead the people of the Delta during very stressful economic times. He has performed admirably and gained the respect of his peers through the use of sound judgment and meaningful action.

Bryan has distinguished himself in many areas on behalf of the Mississippi Delta region that he loves so much. Bryan has led the organization of Delta Council into new fields of endeavor such as health care and adult literacy. He has supported innovative approaches toward expanding the conservation provisions of our farm laws. He has been a strong advocate for water resource developments that include significant features for improved environmental restoration. And, he has become well known throughout the region and among members of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation as an effective spokesperson on behalf of the Delta's largest industry, which is agriculture.

After graduating from the University of Mississippi, Bryan Jones could have been placed in a senior executive position in almost any company located anywhere in the United States. However, because of his love for the Mississippi Delta, Bryan returned to the Delta region and joined his local peers in building a \$1 billion banking system which has rapidly grown throughout our State. In addition to serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Delta Division of BankPlus, Bryan operates a